

## CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 2, 2014

The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

**Members present:** Ira Berkowitz, Laurel Harrington, Michelle Harris, Jane Klamer, Becky Patel, Eric Schneider, Mark Stapleton and Mark Winings.

**Absent:** Jeanne Most and Melanie Tamsky

*Also Present:* Patty DeForrest and Denise Ucinski.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Addresses from the Audience:**

There were no addresses from the audience

### **SPAC Bubble:**

Ms. DeForrest gave an overview about the SPAC bubble. She said there have been serious discussions about adding a bubble to SPAC since the 1990s. There was a donor willing to pay for the bubble but they did not want to accept the on-going operational costs.

SPAC bubble requirements:

- Would need to be visually appealing
- Need to add gas line to heat the filter building; initial up front cost to do this is estimated to be nearly \$500,000
- Enhancements to the locker room would need to be included in the project

St. Peter's Rec-Plex is the only indoor 50 meter pool in the St. Louis area. Most indoor pools in the area are 25 yards. Ms. DeForrest discussed the pros and cons of covering the outdoor pool from her perspective.

Pros:

- Would enable year round long course swimming; swimmers would definitely take advantage of this options
- Swim teams would like it; provides better training opportunities
- If Dive Tank was included, it could be used by dive and water polo teams

Cons:

- Estimated three million dollar cost of construction
- Impossible to cover operating costs
- Would adversely impact membership at The Center
- Would be a challenge to staff

Mr. Winings asked Ms. DeForrest if she was aware of any aesthetically appealing bubbles. She said she was not aware of any that she had seen. Cape Girardeau, Missouri runs a pool with a bubble over it in the winter as they do not have an indoor pool.

Other Options:

- Consider expansion of The Center of Clayton
- Heating/Cooling System to extend the outdoor season
  - Minimal initial investment (range from \$100,000-\$200,000 depending upon adding the system to all pools or just the lap pool)
  - Operational costs would include utilities, chemicals, supplies and staffing
  - Staffing would be a challenge, could consider outsourcing this component

Ms. DeForrest said if there was a heating and cooling system at the pool the season could be from May 1 through early October. An extended fee would be charged for SPAC pass holders who wanted to use the pool before and after the regular season. The filter room is not heated so it would not be feasible to stay open too late in the year. She indicated that there appears to be support for this options as two years ago she received a petition with over three hundred signatures expressing their desire for this option to be considered; these patrons indicated they would help to pay for it. A large percentage of swimmers who use the pool during the extended season are non-resident lap swimmers.

Ms. DeForrest thinks installing a bubble over SPAC is not the best option. The City has agreed that it is acceptable for CCF to fundraise for heating and cooling at SPAC; that is probably the best option for the outdoor pool and would not only offer the ability to extend the season, but help keep the pool temperature down during the hot summer months. The Center of Clayton is a better location fiscally and aesthetically for a 50 meter pool than the outdoor pool. If there are efforts to have an indoor 50 meter pool, this would be a better location for it. Ms. Klammer asked about the utilization of the recreation pool. Ms. DeForrest said it is utilized more on the weekends, is a great pool for swim lessons, birthday parties and for families with children.

The Commission discussed the following: various aspects of a SPAC bubble or not having a bubble, extension of the season with the addition of a heating and cooling system, mechanical systems changes and conducting a community survey. Ms. Patel made the recommendation to the BOA for no further exploration of a SPAC bubble, but to explore the option of extending the pool season with a heating and cooling system. Ms. Harrington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### **Director's Report:**

Ms. DeForrest reported that the outdoor pool is up and running, the season is off to a good start and there is good usage, although not as good as some years past due to the weather. One of the canopies deteriorated, a new one has been ordered and is scheduled to be delivered in three weeks. Only one bid was received through the RFQ for concessions at SPAC. Sips and Bits is running concession operations for the second year. Last year's survey showed that patrons are happy with this option as they offer a good selection of food.

The Tennis Center has been open for several weeks, and everything is going well with Frontenac Racquet Club.

Five hundred fifty students have visited the Hanley House this year which is many more than last year. Ms. Umlauf does an excellent job of getting school districts to the house for various programs; including districts outside of Clayton. There are five cakes in Clayton for the City of St. Louis's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday; all of them have historical significance. Ms. Umlauf was able to tell the artist how she wanted the design on the Hanley Park cake; it really turned out great and has been a big draw at the park.

An email was sent to Dog Park members today explaining the surface improvement plan. The park will shut down for two weeks beginning on June 16. Ms. Harris asked if the City would allow Ladue residents to become dog park members. She heard that the city of Ladue may have funds to share with the City. Ms. DeForrest said there have been discussions about opening membership to non-residents. Last season one hundred eight-four passes were sold and this year due to the conditions of the park only ninety members have renewed their membership. Ms. DeForrest said the original information stated the park would be open to two hundred dogs and would be residents only; changes to this could be considered but it might make sense to give the dog park a year to operate before changing the policy. There is not a board overseeing the dog park, but there is an informal dog park supporter group. Ms. Patel asked if dog park maintenance costs come out of the City budget. Ms. DeForrest said the funds come out of the City budget, but the cost is covered through membership fees.

The Enterprise Holdings Pavilion is open. Contractors are working on punch list items. Staff is working to schedule a Dedication Party sometime in the near future. The field project is also nearing completion and the fence will be taken down on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Equipment for the Oak Knoll playground has been ordered. Construction will begin at the end of June or early July.

This Sunday is the City's first Food Truck Sunday which will be from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The trucks will be parked between fields 5 and 6 and the main body of the park. Mr. Schmidt from Sips and Bits is handling the alcohol service. Our sponsors are Grey Eagle (Anheuser Busch) and Feast Magazine. There will be two food trucks at Musical Nights this year; one food vendor and a dessert truck.

The City of Clayton Parks and Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Kids Triathlon this year. A group of residents are running the event and hired a company to assist them. Swimming will take place at The Center, biking will be in Shaw Park and the run will be on the Great Rivers Greenway trail.

Next Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> is the dedication event at the Moneta Garden in Shaw Park. Ms. Harris asked the Commission to visit the Clayton's Farmers Market on Thursdays from 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

**Old Business / New Business:**

Ms. Harris inquired about the MSD project in Oak Knoll Park. Ms. DeForrest said they are waiting to coordinate a July date. Also, Mr. Owens and Ms. DeForrest have met with the neighborhood Trustees to discuss the project. Mr. Schneider asked about the parkland usage study. Ms. DeForrest said the total cost is \$8,000 which, at this point, has been included in the preliminary FY2015 budget.

Ms. Klammer reported that Wydown Field will be usable in the fall. Mr. Berkowitz asked about the running trail down Wydown. The Public Works Department installed grass pavers to protect the grass roots from dying. The grass did not survive due to lack of sun therefore the department will not be adding any more pavers to Wydown Boulevard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Denise Ucinski